



# The Minuteman Repeater Association

# The Minuteman

Volume 41, Number 5

May 2012



**Membership Meeting ~ Wednesday, 23  
May 2012 @ 7:00 PM**

**The 3Y0X DXpedition  
Northborough Free Library,  
34 Main Street, Northborough, MA**

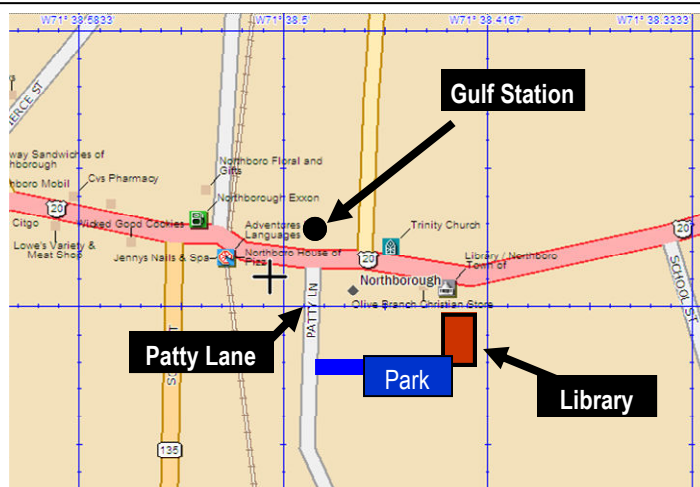
May's meeting will feature a DVD presentation of the DXpedition to St. Peter Island. Frozen wasteland, environmental treasure, or ham radio paradise? You be the judge!

Free pizza will be served.  
General elections will also be held at this meeting.

## Directions to The Northborough Free Library

### Directions from I-495:

- From I-495, take Exit 24B which is Rt. 20 West toward Northborough.
- Follow Rt. 20 West about 3.5 miles, into the center of Northborough..
- Opposite the Gulf Station on the right, turn left into Patty Lane.
- The Northborough Free Library parking lot will be on the left.



## Nominating Committee Report

President	Bob DeMattia	K1IW
Vice President	Steve Telsey	N1BDA
Secretary	John McGovern	W1JMC
Treasurer	Kevin Paetzold	K1KWP
Clerk	Bob Evans	N1BE
Tech. Officer	Bryan Cerqua	W1BRI
Director »2014	Clark Conti	N1NVK
Director »2014	Mike Neilsen	W1MPN

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Use this QR code to access the MMRA Website with your Smartphone.



## About the Minuteman Repeater Association

The Minuteman Repeater Association (MMRA) is dedicated to Amateur Radio and public service. The MMRA maintains a large system of repeaters in Eastern Massachusetts.

The MMRA meets (usually) on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from September to June. Meeting times, locations, and talk-in frequency vary and are announced in this newsletter and on weekly nets. Meetings are open to all interested parties. Guest speakers and programs of general interest occur in September, November, January, March, and May. The intervening meetings are also open to all members and are for general business.

The Minuteman newsletter is Emailed one week before each general interest meeting. Members are encouraged to submit articles which can be sent to the editor at [newsletter@mmra.org](mailto:newsletter@mmra.org). The deadline for articles is the last Friday of the month preceding the meeting.

Each Tuesday evening at 8PM the MMRA links most of the repeaters for an open net. The topic is "Technical Information and Other Stuff". Join us!

Membership in the MMRA is open to all radio amateurs. Annual dues are \$25 per individual or \$35 per family. See our website for details.

Email to the club leadership should be sent to [contact@mmra.org](mailto:contact@mmra.org). The MMRA maintains a web site at: <http://www.mmra.org/>

An email distribution list for club members named "MMRA" is at: [www.yahogroups.com/](http://www.yahogroups.com/)

**No part of this newsletter can be copied or posted elsewhere without prior approval from the club. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.**

### MMRA QRM Policy

MMRA members and all other operators are strongly encouraged to report repeater activity that does not abide by Part 97 rules or accepted amateur radio practice to the board of directors at [contact@mmra.org](mailto:contact@mmra.org) or via other means.

The most effective way (and probably the only effective way) to deal with an individual causing QRM is to NOT engage that individual on the air. Please include the time and date of any incident. Measures are being taken to make audio recordings of repeater activity.

## Repeater and Frequency Information

Up-to-date information about both MMRA repeaters and affiliate repeaters can be found at

<http://www.mmra.org/repeaters/index.html>

Band	Location	Freq	PL	Call	Linking	
					To Hub 1	To Hub 2
MMRA Voice Repeaters						
10m	Marlboro	29.680	131.8	W1MRA	PTL	PTL
6m	Marlboro	53.810	71.9	W1BRI	PTL	PTL
2m	Belmont	145.430	67.0	WA1RTT	—	—
	Boston	146.160	—	W1MRA	D-Star	
	Mendon	146.610	146.2	AE1C	FTL	PTL
	Quincy	146.670		W1BRI	PTL	PTL
	Burlington	146.715		KC1US	PTL	PTL
	Weston	146.790		N1BE	PTL	PTL
	Brookline	146.820		K5TEC	FTL	PTL
	Marlboro	147.270		W1MRA	PTL	PTL
	1¼m	Hopkinton		223.940	103.5	K1KWP
Quincy		224.400	N1KUG	PTL		FTL
Weston		224.700	N1NOM	PTL		FTL
Marlboro		224.880	W1MRA	PTL		FTL
70cm	Lowell	442.250	88.5	K1LVF	FTL	PTL: 446.775
	Weston *	442.700		W1MRA	Network Hub 2 (PTL to Hub 1)	
	Burlington	446.775		W1DYJ	FTL	PTL
	Southboro	449.575		W1BRI	PTL	PTL
	Marlboro *	449.925		W1MRA	Network Hub 1	
33cm	Boston *	927.0625	D244	K1RJZ	PTL	—
	Marlboro *	927.700		W1MRA	PTL	—
MMRA Other Systems						
	Marlboro	144.390	none	W1MRA	APRS Digipeater	
	???	145.630	146.2	W1MRA	Fox Box	
* Internet	HUB1— 449.925: IRLP node 4133; Echolink					
	HUB2 — 442.700: IRLP node 4136; Connected to 220 Reflector 9124 on Tuesdays					
	927.0625: IRLP node 4977			Normally linked to the NEAR-900 Reflector, 9125. Linked to MMRA via IRLP for the TIAOS net. Normally linked together.		
	927.700: IRLP node 4978					

**Notes:** FTL = Full Time Linked (or default state)  
PTL = Part Time Linked (on schedule or demand)  
Note — a repeater can be linked to only one Hub at a time.

**PL:** PL is required to prevent interference.

## ***President's Corner — Current Events***

***Bob DeMattia — K1IW***

A number of items are on our current agenda:

### ***Sligo Update***

Renovation work by the City of Marlborough at our Sligo Hill repeater site continues. In the next stage, all antennas on the water tank need to be removed. The APRS, 6m receiver, 224.880, 449.925 and 927.7 antennas will be removed first, with 147.27 shortly thereafter. During the time these antennas are down, we will have most systems running on mast-mounted backup antennas. These antennas are about 100 feet lower, so you can expect reduced coverage. The city has not given us a time table for when things will return to normal, so things may stay this way for quite some time.

### ***Boxboro 2012***

The Boxboro Convention is on August 24th, 25th, and 26th. MMRA will be providing talk-in from our hospitality suite just off the main courtyard inside the hotel throughout the convention. Be sure to stop by and say hello to the other members of the club.

Even better, we are planning to attend the Saturday evening banquet as a club. The banquet features a guest speaker and other entertainment. If you would like to join us, purchase your banquet ticket through us to receive a \$5 discount. Contact K1IW at [k1iw@mmra.org](mailto:k1iw@mmra.org) for further information.

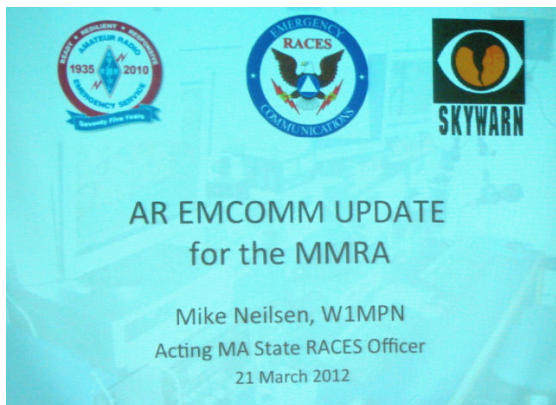
## ***March Membership Meeting***

### ***Ham's in Emergency Communications***

***Mike Neilsen, W1MPN***

Mike discussed how ham radio operators are still considered important players in the overall emergency communication (EMCOMM) response. He outlined how ham radio is used in today's complex public safety environment in the face of complicated issues of reduced state budgets and agency consolidations. He also briefly described the requirements of NIMS, ICS, and state

programs, as they apply to ham operators. W1MPN explained many of the new approaches to the integration of ham EMCOMM volunteers into initiatives such as COML, RADO, ACS, and COOP/COG, and how they relate to RACES, ARES, SKYWARN, MARS, and the CERT programs. He then gave a brief update of the changes being proposed for the existing RACES program by MEMA, as part of the current outreach to hams.



## ***From the ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section News***

Amateur radio volunteers turned out in droves for the **2012 Boston Marathon** on April 16. According to Amateur Radio Communications Coordinator Steve Schwarm, W3EVE, approximately 250 hams provided communications support to the Boston Athletic Association, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, American Red Cross, Boston Emergency Medical Services, along with the public safety departments of eight different municipalities.

Forty hams comprised the start team; 110 were situated along the course; 20 were assigned to Net Control in Brookline; 60 amateurs made up the finish team; an additional 22 helped coordinate bus operations.

Amateurs were also stationed at the ARES Regional Command Center in Bridgewater, and at the MA State EOC in Framingham.

The Boston Marathon continues to be one of the largest and most visible Amateur Radio public service operations in the country. The amateur community can be proud of its contributions to this historic race.

## ***Boxboro — Call for Speakers Ken Caruso, WO1N***

All speakers wanting to participate in the 2012 ARRL New England Division Convention program, please contact us at your earliest opportunity and include a subject title and a brief abstract.

The dates for the convention are August 24 – 26, 2012.

If you represent a regional club or organization (e.g. NESMC, CEMARC, MARS, NEWS etc.) we can help facilitate open forums or closed meetings. We do ask organizations to please consider Sunday morning time slots for their closed meetings.

Groups looking to set up information booths should get your request in early. While the information booths are offered without charge, we ask for some volunteer time in return to assist us with ticket sales and other logistics during the convention operation.

Ken Caruso, WO1N  
Boxboro Program Chairman  
Wo1n@arrl.net  
508-572-3347

## ***Proposed Change to MMRA ByLaws***

***Bob DeMattia, President — K1IW***

The current bylaws require a vote for the general membership for any expenditure over \$500. This makes sense most of the time, but there are times when things must be done, such as repairs where there isn't really must choice, and often time is of the essence.

This bylaw will eliminate the general membership requirement under certain conditions.

### **This is what we have now:**

a. All expenditures in excess of five hundred dollars must be approved by the majority of the membership present at a meeting. The subject of the vote must be announced to the members in the meeting announcement. Alternatively, such a vote may be accomplished by mail or by electronic means as provided in Article IV section 8 and Article IV section 9. If this alternate method is used, a majority of the full membership is required.

### **The proposal is to add the following to this paragraph:**

*Expenses related to the immediate repair of existing equipment or to prevent damage to existing equipment are exempt from this limit and may be authorized by the board. In this case, the board shall provide notice to the general membership of such expense at the next regularly scheduled general meeting.*

**This will be voted on at the June membership meeting.**



## 2011—2012 Meetings

21 September — Membership Meeting  
Rob Macedo, KC1CY — Tornadoes and Hurricanes  
Westborough Public Library ~ 7:00 PM

19 October — Membership Meeting  
General Business  
Southborough House of Pizza

16 November — Membership Meeting  
Ham Radio at The Boston Marathon  
MEMA Hqtrs, Framingham ~ 7:30 PM

14 December — Membership Meeting  
General Business  
Stratus, Maynard

18 January — Membership Meeting  
All About D-Star — Terry Stader, KA8SCP  
Northborough Free Library ~ 7:00 PM

15 February — Membership Meeting  
General Business  
Conexant, Waltham ~ 7:00 PM

21 March — Membership Meeting  
Ham's in Emergency Communications — Mike Neilson, W1MPN  
Concord Public Safety Bldg / EOC ~ 7:00 PM

18 April — Membership Meeting  
General Business  
No meeting in April

23 May — Membership Meeting  
The 3Y0X DXpedition & MMRA General Elections  
Northborough Free Library ~ 7:00 PM

20 June — Membership Meeting  
General Business  
Blue Coyote Grille, Maynard ~ 7:00 PM

## Don't Forget!

Every Tuesday @ 8 PM

### Technical, Informational and Other Stuff Net

The MMRA's repeaters are linked Tuesday nights for the TIAOS Net. Join us! This is a good way to keep up with what is happening in the MMRA and ask your ham related questions.

If you would like to try your hand at Net Control contact me at [W1DYJ@mmra.org](mailto:W1DYJ@mmra.org) — we have a script you can use.

### Current Net Control Operators:

Week 1	WA1JIM	Jimmy Devaire
Week 2	W1DYJ	Larry Banks
Week 3	KQ1Y	Tim Wortley
Week 4	K1KWP	Kevin Paetzold
Week 5	W1DYJ	Larry Banks

### Beginning 1 June:

To connect using the digital modes during the Net:  
Use MMRA's node:  
Connect via \*W1MRA-L\*, node 9128.

## MMRA Leaders

### Officers

President	Bob DeMattia	K1IW
Vice President	Steve Telsey	N1BDA
Secretary	John McGovern	W1JMC
Treasurer	Kevin Paetzold	K1KWP
Clerk	Bob Evans	N1BE
Technical Officer	Bryan Cerqua	W1BRI

### Board of Directors

Director »2012	Clark Conti	N1NVK
Director »2012	Mike Neilson	W1MPN
Director »2013	Steve Schwarm	W3EVE
Director »2013	Roger Coulson	WA1NVC

### Repeater Trustees, Appointed

Belmont 145.430	Larry Arone	WA1RTT
Boston 927.0625	Rick Zach	K1RJZ
Brookline 146.820	Bob Phinney	K5TEC
Burlington 146.715	Bruce Pigott	KC1US
Burlington 446.775	Larry Banks	W1DYJ
Hopkinton 223.940	Kevin Paetzold	K1KWP
Lowell 442.250	Vince De La Flor	K1LVF
Marlboro 53.810, Quincy 146.670, Southboro 449.575	Bryan Cerqua	W1BRI
Marlboro 144.390, 147.270, 224.880, 449.925, 927.700		
Weston 442.700 — all as W1MRA		
	Bill Northup	N1QPR
Mendon 146.610	Jim Podsiadlo	AE1C
Weston 146.790	Bob Evans	N1BE
Weston 224.700	Eddie Mulhern	N1NOM

### Appointed, non-Voting

Newsletter Editor	Larry Banks	W1DYJ
Emergency Coord.	Kevin Paetzold	K1KWP
Public Service Coord.	Bruce Pigott	KC1US
VEC Liaison	Bill Wade	K1IJ
Net Manager	Larry Banks	W1DYJ
Web Page Editor	Bob DeMattia	K1IW

Previous issues of the MMRA Newsletter are available at:

[www.mmra.org](http://www.mmra.org) → [Newsletter Archive](#) (on the left)

## MMRA VE Sessions

3rd Saturday of each Month

9 AM at the Marlboro Public Library

Contact: Bill Wade, K1IJ 781-891-9079

Evenings 6 - 10 PM Weekends 8 AM to 10 PM.

Accredited by the ARRL VEC

**Upcoming Membership Meeting ~ Wednesday, 23 May 2012 @ 7:00 PM**

**The 3Y0X DXpedition**

**Northborough Free Library, 34 Main Street, Northborough, MA**

Pizza will be served.

*General elections will also be held at this meeting.*

**Next Membership Meeting: 20 June — General Business**  
**Blue Coyote Grille, Maynard ~ 7:00 PM**

**Calendar of Ham Radio Flea Markets**

See this web site for more information: <http://mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

2 Jun	Windsor CT	VR+C Mus	15 Sep	Forestdale RI	RIAFMRS @VFW
10 Jun	Queens NY	HoSARC @HoS	15 Sep	Windsor CT	VR+C Mus
16 Jun	Newington CT	NARL @StMarySch	16 Sep	Cambridge MA	FLEA at MIT
16 Jun	Brookline NH	NEAntqRC@EvtntCtr	12,13 Oct	Deerfield NH	NEARFest XII @FG
17 Jun	Cambridge MA	FLEA at MIT	14 Oct	Queens NY	HoSARC @HoS
15 Jul	Cambridge MA	FLEA at MIT	21 Oct	Cambridge MA	FLEA at MIT
11 Aug	St Albans VT	STARC @VFW	27 Oct	Gales Ferry CT	TCARC @FireCo
12 Aug	Adams MA	NoBARC @BoweFld	8 Oct	Hicksville NY	LIMARC @LevitHall
19 Aug	Cambridge MA	FLEA at MIT	2 Nov	Feeding Hills MA	@CongCh
24-26 Aug	Boxboro MA	ARRL Conv @HI	3 Nov	Bourne MA FARA	@UpperCC VoTech
8 Sep	Ballston Spa NY	SCRACES @FG	3 Nov	Londonderry NH	IRS @Lions
9 Sep	Newtown CT	CARA @TownHall	1 Dec	Windsor CT	VR+C Mus

**THE MINUTEMAN REPEATER ASSOCIATION**

**MMRA**  
**P.O. Box 669**  
**Stow, MA. 01775-0669**

Email: [contact@mmra.org](mailto:contact@mmra.org)



**WE'RE ON THE WEB**  
**HTTP://WWW.MMRA.ORG/**